**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Previously Presented) A compressible dosage form comprising an active cushioning component, wherein the active cushioning component is a bead, granule, particle or pellet and, wherein the active cushioning component comprises:

a) a placebo cushioning component comprising a highly-compactable filler, a highly water-absorbing material and water; and

b) active-loaded particles; wherein the placebo cushioning component and active-loaded particles are admixed to form an admixture; and the admixture is freeze-dried to form the active cushioning component.

2. (Original) The compressible dosage form of claim 1, wherein the placebo cushioning component has a particle size ranging from about 20 μm up to about 2000 μm.

3. (Original) The compressible dosage form of claim 2, wherein the placebo cushioning component has a particle size ranging from about 20 μm up to about 1000 μm.

4. (Original) The compressible dosage form of claim 3, wherein the placebo cushioning component has a particle size ranging from about 20 μm up to about 500 μm.

5. (Currently Amended) The compressible dosage form of claim 1, wherein the active-loaded particles ~~is~~ are present in an amount ranging from about 0.1% to about 97% by weight based on the total weight of the active cushioning component.

6. (Currently Amended) The compressible dosage form of claim 1, wherein the active-loaded particles ~~is~~ are present in an amount ranging from about 20% to about 90% by weight based on the total weight of the active cushioning component.

7. (Currently Amended) The compressible dosage form of claim 1, wherein the active-loaded particles ~~is~~ are present in an amount ranging from about 40% to about 75% by weight based on the total weight of the active cushioning component.

8. (Original) The compressible dosage form of claim 1, wherein the highly-compactable filler is present in an amount ranging from about 5% to about 90% based on the combined weight of highly water-absorbing material and compactable filler.

9. (Original) The compressible dosage form of claim 8, wherein the highly-compactable filler is present in an amount ranging from about 5% to about 80% based on the combined weight of highly water-absorbing material and compactable filler.

10. (Original) The compressible dosage form of claim 9, wherein the highly-compactable filler is present in an amount ranging from about 5% to about 60% based on the combined weight of highly water-absorbing material and compactable filler.

11. (Original) A tablet comprising the compressible dosage form of claim 1.

12. (Withdrawn) A caplet comprising the compressible dosage form of claim 1.

13. (Withdrawn) A lozenge comprising the compressible dosage form of claim 1.

14. (Withdrawn) A capsule comprising the compressible dosage form of claim 1.

15. (Withdrawn) A cachet comprising the compressible dosage form of claim 1.

16. (Withdrawn) A method for preparing a compressible dosage form comprising an active cushioning component, comprising:

a) combining a highly-compactable filler, a highly water-absorbing material and water to form a placebo cushioning component;

b) providing active-loaded particles;

c) admixing the placebo cushioning component and active-loaded particles to form an admixture; and

d) freeze-drying the admixture to form the active cushioning component.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the freeze-drying is performed until the admixture comprising the placebo cushioning component and active-loaded particles has an amount of water ranging from about from about 0% up to about 20% based on the total weight of the active cushioning component.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein the freeze-drying is performed until the admixture comprising the placebo cushioning component and active-loaded particles has an amount of water ranging from about from about 0% up to about 15% based on the total weight of the active cushioning component.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the freeze-drying is performed until the admixture comprising the placebo cushioning component and active-loaded particles has an amount of water ranging from about from about 0% up to about 10% based on the total weight of the active cushioning component.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein step (c) further comprises extruding the admixture comprising the placebo cushioning component and active-loaded particle.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein step (c) further comprises spheronizing the admixture comprising the placebo cushioning component and active-loaded particle.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the placebo cushioning component has a particle size ranging from about 20 μm up to about 2000 μm.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein the placebo cushioning component has a particle size ranging from about 20 μm up to about 1000 μm.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23, wherein the placebo cushioning component has a particle size ranging from about 20 μm up to about 500 μm.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein step (d) further comprises milling the active cushioning component after freeze-drying.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25, wherein the active cushioning component has a particle size ranging from about 20 μm up to about 2000 μm.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein the active cushioning component has a particle size ranging from about 20 μm up to about 850 μm.

28. (Withdrawn) A method for forming a tablet, comprising compressing the compressible dosage form of claim 1 into a tablet.

29. (Withdrawn) A method for forming a caplet, comprising compressing the compressible dosage form of claim 1 into a capsule-shaped tablet.

30. (Withdrawn) A method for forming a lozenge, comprising compressing the compressible dosage form of claim 1 into a lozenge.

31. (Withdrawn) A method for forming an encapsulated dosage form, comprising adding the compressible dosage form of claim 1 to a capsule.

32. (Withdrawn) A method for forming a cachet comprising, depositing the active cushioning component of claim 1 between two wafers, and joining the wafers.

33. (Withdrawn) A compressible dosage form comprising an active cushioning component, wherein the active cushioning component comprises:

a) a freeze-dried placebo cushioning component comprising a highly-compactable filler and a highly water-absorbing material, and having a particle size ranging from about 20 μm up to about 2000 μm; and

b) active-loaded particles; wherein the freeze-dried placebo cushioning component and active-loaded particles are admixed to form the active cushioning component.

34. (Withdrawn) The compressible dosage form of claim 33, wherein the freeze-dried placebo cushioning component has a particle size ranging from about 20 μm up to about 850 μm.

35. (Withdrawn) The compressible dosage form of claim 34, wherein the freeze-dried placebo cushioning component has a particle size ranging from about 20 μm up to about 425 μm.

36. (Withdrawn) A method for preparing a compressible dosage form comprising an active cushioning component, comprising:

a) combining a highly-compactable filler, a highly water-absorbing material and water to form a placebo cushioning component;

b) freeze-drying the placebo cushioning component to form a freeze-dried placebo cushioning component;

c) milling the freeze-dried placebo cushioning component to form a freeze-dried placebo cushioning component having a particle size ranging from about 20 μm up to about 2000 μm;

d) providing active-loaded particles; and

e) admixing the freeze-dried placebo cushioning component having a particle size ranging from about 20 μm up to about 2000 μm and the active-loaded particles to form the active cushioning component.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 36, wherein the freeze-dried placebo cushioning component has a particle size ranging from about 20 μm up to about 850 μm.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 37, wherein the freeze-dried placebo cushioning component has a particle size ranging from about 20 μm up to about 450 μm.